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SOURCE Rzeczpospolita.

NEW USES FOR PEAT PLANNED

60 NEW FACTORIES TO PROCESS PEAT -- Rzeczpospolita, No 241, 2 Sep 49

Many new uses for peat are contemplated in the Six-Year Plan. Peat will be processed into litter in 60 new factories, thus covering domestic needs and providing a surplus for export. Another item will be biohumus, or peat saturated with sewer sludge. Building slabs from peat are already being produced and are of excellent quality. If the search for peat with higher fiber content is successful, it will be used to produce textiles simulating woollens, like those already produced in Sweden. Some samples indicate high phenol and pitch content. The use of peat coke for the metallurgical industry is also being contemplated. Peat for fuel will be produced in cooperatives for consumption on farms.

The present capacity for processing peat into stable litter is 400,000 bales of 75 kilograms each. The domestic sales price is 500 zlotys for 75 kilograms, or about 7 zlotys a kilogram. It may, therefore, seem more expensive than straw, which sells for 5-6 zlotys a kilogram, but the absorbent quality of peat litter is far greater and compensates for the difference in price. Two seasons of exposure to freezing temperature enhances this quality. While its germicidal quality makes it highly useful in stables, it cannot be used as a fertilizer spread, unless it is combined with straw and manure. The use of peat litter has decreased livestock mortality: chicken epidemics have decreased from 50 percent to 2 percent. Cows have yielded 20 percent more milk.

Peat spread in powder form is also used in storing and shipping fruits and vegetables.

OVER 90,000 SHEEP IN KRAKOW WOJEWODZTWO -- Rzeczpospolita, No 241, 2 Sep 49.

Due to government subsidies, new pasture lands, and more efficient economy, the number of sheep in Krakow Wojewodztwo has increased from 72,000 head in 1948 to over 90,000 at present, thus exceeding the prewar figure of 86,000 head.

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HOG-CONTRACTING PROGRAM POPULAR IN SZCZECIN WOJEWODZTWO -- Rzeczpospolita, No 243,  
4 Sep 49

During July, the small and medium holders in Pomorze Zachodnie (Szczecin Wojewodztwo) contracted to deliver 12,306 (11.1 percent of plan) porkers in January 1950. The leading powiats in the hog-contracting program are Bytow, Głupsk, and Koszalin. Deliveries on previous contracts are being made ahead of schedule.

NEW SEPARATOR FOR IRON CASTING -- Rzeczpospolita, No 241, 2 Sep 49

The foreman of the TOR (Technical Agricultural Service) in Krotoszyn, Wladyslaw Szaminski, has constructed a new type of mold for centrifugal casting of iron. The invention has substantially improved the quality of tractor parts and has provided 768,000 zlotys in annual savings.

WHEAT AND RAPE SOWING INCREASED -- Rzeczpospolita, No 241, 2 Sep 49

In Gdansk Wojewodztwo, the area for wheat and rape seed cultivation will be increased by 14,000 hectares. About 130,000 hectares are destined for winter rye, about 45,000 hectares for winter wheat, and about 8,000 hectares for winter rape seed. Farmers in this wojewodztwo have received from cooperatives 344 tons of high-grade rye for winter sowing and more than 150 tons of high-grade wheat. Small and average farmers will receive rape seed in any desired quality.

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